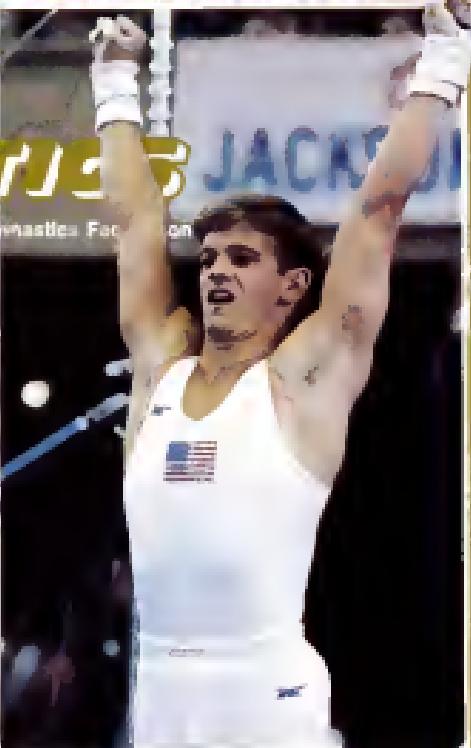


USA GYMNASTICS

Official Magazine of the United States Gymnastics Federation

July/August 1984



1984 Olympic
Trials Issue



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**USA
GYMNASTICS**

Official Newsletter of the United States Gymnastics Federation

July/August 1994

VOL. 13, NO. 4

Cover story

The Olympic Trials, where many athletes realize a dream come true, a berib on the Olympic Team, were held recently in Jacksonville, Fl and Atlantic City, NJ With much pageantry and great gymnastics, the United States assembled its strongest teams ever.

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On the cover The scenes of the Trials
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REFERENCES American Institute of Steel Construction, *Structural Steel Resistances and Allowable Stress Values for Buildings* (Chicago, IL: American Institute of Steel Construction, 1961); Association of Collegiate Engineering Commissions, *Standards for Accreditation of Engineering and Technology Programs* (Washington, DC: Association of Collegiate Engineering and Technology Programs, 1961); Association of Secondary School Principals, *Standards for Secondary Schools* (Washington, DC: Association of Secondary School Principals, 1961); National Commission on Secondary Education, *Standards for Secondary Education* (Washington, DC: National Commission on Secondary Education, 1961); National Education Association, *Standards for Secondary Education* (Washington, DC: National Education Association, 1961); William H. Reed, *Standards and Criteria for Engineering Education* (Washington, DC: American Society for Engineering Education, 1961).

Authors explicitly identified in the numbers of studies, measures on and across potential health care outcomes relevant to the patient and the clinical setting. A summary of selected topics are the highest disease risk measure on average, see next.

100

Alma Parker Director of Public Relations, Black History, The National Commission for Learning About African American History, Atlanta, Georgia.

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An Olympian: To Be Or Not To Be

This summer will be one of discussion, debate, controversy and opinion. We will look back on the past four years and decide what we did right and what we did wrong. Hopefully we will evaluate this period carefully and make even better decisions for our future.

One topic of great discussion is our team selection process. Everyone has their own opinion. Coaches, judges, athletes and even parents cast judgement on the selection process. The issue is, is the basis of the debate a simple one: Can you select the very best team fairly? Another point is what is more important: being perfectly fair or making sure that the best team is represented on the floor? It is perhaps impossible to satisfy both questions.

In the recent Olympic Gymnastics Trials our men's and women's teams used two very different selection procedures. The men did not allow any petition onto the team. The top six men are the Olympic Team. The women could allow petition.

It is interesting to think of the potential consequence. Mitch Taylor had a fall in the last event of the Trials. If Mitch had not been able to finish his routine, he would not have made the Olympic Team! The men's procedure would not allow a seventh man of the world's finest male vaulters failed in trials; the USA team due to a "bad day" at the Trials and Field Olympic Trials. Was that fair? Perhaps a better question is who was that best for the USA Team?

In 1972 Cathy Rigby was placed on the Olympic Team when she was unable to finish her last event in the Trials due to an injury. She was our best gymnast. Did she deserve a place on the Team? In 1976 Peter Konzinski was actually our men's team alternate. He coach decided that Peter deserved to work and he replaced another athlete and gave Peter a place on the team. Peter became our first Olympic medal winner in 40 years! Was this fair? Obviously, a good idea isn't?

In 1979 we selected our women's team a number of months before the World Championships. The girls were out of shape at the World Championships. We had the falls on them and we counted about 17 missed exercises. In 1981 we first used the delayed selection procedure. We used it again in 1984. Our performances were much better and we had no falls on beam and hardly any missed routines.

There are many questions that arise from this: Do we compete too far froms before the actual competition? That is to pick those athletes that are at their very peak of performance. Perhaps it is not fair, but it is effective.

The bottom line to the selection procedure is the team's performance. If the team does well the procedure is accepted. If the team does poorly the selection procedure is blamed. I am of the opinion that another path is valid. We could have a Trials and select the top six to compete. The Trials could be held just a week before the competition in question. This perhaps would eliminate the time that an athlete would get out of shape or lose the competitive edge. The opposite alternative is to not have a Trials competition at all. Maybe we could take the top 15 athletes and select an equal group of coaches, judges and officials who would select the six member team the day before the event. It would be interesting if the athletes selected in these two very different ways would be the same.

Our responsibility is a difficult one: to select our very best team fairly. No matter how fair it appears on paper, circumstances always develop that put the pressure on the test. We sometimes try to build in preventives. We want to protect our top athletes however the nature of athletic competition is surprise. We cannot create protections for every situation but then again, should we?

What if Scott Hamilton fell in the Olympics Trials and did not make the team? What about Greg Louganis, Edwin Moses or Mary Decker? Then again, what about the athletes who defeat these top contenders in the Trials. By trying to protect our potential medal winners are we discouraging the spirit of competition?

The purpose of this article is to show that there are truly two sides to this position. Obviously, as an athlete who finished sixth, the feelings will be different from those of the athlete who finished seventh.

There are no easy solutions. However, some things can help. One is to make sure everyone knows well in advance exactly how the selection procedure works. Also, the selection procedure should be based on the main objective—finding the very best team. No matter what final procedure is selected, it must be based on performance. No one can rise on the past records. Sports change too rapidly. In addition, we never want to discourage the spirit of competition. The selection procedure cannot be an academic one. The encouragement should be one that forces the coach and athletes to spend time in the gym rather than spending time deciphering rules. For us the real and most important thing is the athlete's performance.

Mick Judd
Executive Director

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A TOUCH OF BRASS

By Sue Stalter
Eugene, Oregon

A lleged trampolinist, thought the coach. It was the mid-season, trampolinist was well on NCAA event and the coach was recovering from a meet in which his four trampolinists bounced off the ramp like paperweights off a pin with no lid.

Monday, the coach got an idea. Pushing the trampoline up against the railing of the balcony: "I want four routines from each of you." He gawped at the four who leaped themselves looking over the railing at the deep more than 20 feet below.

They leaped, they each hit four solid routines. Those were the safest routines you ever saw in your life," laughed Bill Meade.

Sometimes it takes a little brass to be a coach, to walk over to a gymnast who has just crashed in a big meet, tap him with your foot and say, "Get up you're making me look bad." And it takes a great human being to get away with that kind of thing and still be respected by his parents and competitors.

For 10 years, Bill Meade has been brass-tough to stay one of competitive gymnastics' most insatiable coaches, the brash of a gymnastics set that spreads across the entire country.

When Meade arrived at Southern Illinois in the fall of 1980 after coaching seven years at the University of North Carolina, he found a group full of students who had never competed. The most experienced athlete was a 194 pound trampolinist/diver/pole vaulter named Roger Cossell. That takes care of the Indiana State branch. The lone experienced crew was a skinny cat fresh.

"I'd like to go out on the team," he told the coach.

"Well, what can you do?" Meade asked.

"Oh I'm pretty good on trampoline. I could do almost everything on it in high school, except there's one thing I won't do."

"What's that?"

"The back flip."

Right.

But Meade persisted, ambling into the gym in a long known costume that gave his stocky form a bear-like appearance, which only increased when he started to scratch his back against the high bar cables. Meade pushed at the team, demanding routines, tolerating little and racking his lit cigarette behind his ear like a pencil when he needed both hands for spotting. He also encouraged the skinny trampolinist.

Meade scheduled SIU's first meet against the most powerful team in the country, the University of Illinois with Don Toney and Abe Grossfeld.

"Go for it, children, it'll."

Not being a very timid fellow, Meade scheduled SIU's first meet against the most powerful team in the country, the University of Illinois with Don Toney and Abe Grossfeld. "I just figured that the only way we were going to get any better was to meet somebody better," explains Meade. "And we did."

And they got stamped. But yes indeed, Bill Ballouster did a back flip in the meet. There's the University of Oregon branch.

The Sabats had the next seven meets before finally winning their last meet of the season. Meade worked through the summer and fall putting kids out of P.E. classes, recruiting in the ultra-rich Chicago area and selling coffee from many Giants to unsuspecting football fans to finance a trip to the Florida Christmas Club.

"We were just getting started, so I couldn't get in touch with the top folks," recalls Meade. "I had to go after the air through 10 links and take it from there. Southern Illinois was a new school. It was a good opportunity to get into some good competition. At that time, it was a little easier to get in academically than some other schools, so I got some tools that couldn't get into other colleges."

Meade's first blue chip recruit was Fred Chabot, already a quality gymnast by the time he chose to go to SIU. "Billings is wise. He's very dedicated and spends a lot of time in the gym helping you be the best you can be. I just thought that it would be an ideal situation for me."



Standing unbroken against those, the Coach has been a major influence on gymnasts in America. (USA photo by Paul Gosselink)

But not the closest perhaps. "I always believed in an automatic democracy," laughs Mende. "We didn't take too many issues on how we were going to do things."

Today, "I can remember some Sunday morning practices you had to lock the door on you if you weren't there on time. He'd take men tickets away from people so they couldn't eat. I mean that didn't happen all the time, but you learned that he was there on time, so you better be there on time too."

That was the Western Michigan branch by the way.

With Oklahoma, a 1966 Olympian, Bruce Klaus (that Stroudsburg branch) and a double back number from California named Russ Mitchell (New Mexico branch), Mende built a team that cleaned house on an entire decade in the same way Gene Wisconsin's Penn State teams dominated the fifties.

Mende and assistant Bill Preg come from that Penn State tradition. "We won the national AAU championships in 1973," says Mende. "And then when we got back from the service, we won the national collegiate championship in 1974."

"We were doing consecutive handspring frames and double full twists on two halves of circles over all four bars each," The kind of runs that at best keep you from bleeding if you crash.

From 1962 through 1967, SU didn't lose a meet, a time Hatch Dromek refers to as the "golden era".

"He's the reason I'm still coaching," says Dromek, a comment his Saluki colleagues echoed. "Bill's strict discipline brought us together. We had a lot of guys in the team who had wild hairs and guys who were pretty conservative. We all had the same rules but he treated us individually. We got the feeling that this was lots of fun, something we could talk pride in about a competitive thing to do when we really had nothing else in our lives but gymnastics."

Undaunted and still sitting, Morava straightened his toes and raised his arms as if he'd just nailed the vault cold. Even the judges laughed.

"Well, that's it," says Mende. "You want to have fun in the gym. Find the kids that want to be good and go from there. You just have to show them that you really care about what they are doing and that they are getting better and have a good atmosphere where they can see that they are progressing."

The pressure was still on to win but a little more subtle than holding men tickets. Fred Dennis, one of more than 20 Illinois high school coaches taught by Mende, explains. "There were a lot of good gyms in those days. Everybody had to work just to survive. He'd just scratch his chin and say, I wonder who'll take to Tucson this week."

With Tom Loeffler, the winning continued into the seventies. No more selling coffee at football games. Money was easier to come by. The SU athletic department budgeted roughly \$15,000 for Mende's 1972 season. He spent \$35,000 and won the NCAA championships. The athletic department paid the \$35,000.

With 200 people in each event the 1974 Midwest Open was an easy place for a gymnast to get lost in a crowd of t-shirts. But one group of athletes stood out. Their t-shirts said nothing just a transferred photo of a fellow with a round face, receding hairline and a grin on his face like he'd just smoked his athletic department for a lot of money. A whole team full of share with that boy right up front.

At the end of the mauling masses stood Gary Morava, the brightest gymnast ever in the country. Seated in a folding chair directly under the end of the swaying handring mat was the fellow with the face on Morava's shirt.

Morava ran, launched his vault, a handspring from which he opened early and landed flat on his feet not five feet in front of the guy with the round face.

Unbeknownst and still smiling, Morava straightened his legs, pointed his toes and raised his arms as if he'd just nailed them all cold. Even the judges laughed.

Also undaunted the guy in the chair drummed his leather tambourine on his arms as he raised his index finger signaling Morava to take another vault.

Morava took the next one.

Tragically Gary Morava died in a gym accident the following year and Southern Illinois suffered. "We had been on top for a long time," says Dromek. "Then I lost Gary and that, it got us in bad shape and we weren't in the top 10."

Despite the downspell SU kept turning out good individual gymnasts Jim French, Glen Tedwell, Danny Monk, Rick Adams and most recently Brian Babcock. They lost just the seniors were back in the top 10.

It's difficult to decide if Bill Mende is better at developing gymnasts or coaches. Five former Salukis have coached teams in the top 10 in the PAC-8: Counsel, Ballister, Dromek, Mitchell and Chuck Hatch (Northern Illinois branch).

"He's treated me big as equal as a coach right from the start," says Dromek. "It's just fun when we compete against him."

On year, Hatch is the Houston Baptist branch.

And just what does Brian Babcock want to do with his future?

I want to be a college coach.

It was not a very big plane. Barely big enough to hold the gymnastics team flying home from Tucson. Upfront sat the pilot and the coach who had done a fair bit of flying himself and just persuaded the pilot to let him land the plane. Just as the plane was about to touch down on the runway a gust of wind blew the plane sideways over the grass not the concrete.

The gymnasts turned white as the plane bounced and rolled to a stop in the grass. No one said a word. But up front they could hear their hearts thudding comfortably.

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Comradeship Special At Brother Cup

By Norma B. Zeffrin

The annual Rhythmic Gymnastics event of the year is a prestigious competition that gathers some of the finest rhythmic gymnasts of the world. This year the Brother Cup competition is held in Tokyo and it followed by a competition at other Japanese cities. This year the cities on tour were Niigata and Okinawa. The competition in Niigata, like the comradeship between the representatives from each country especially during the exhibition period, is very special. The Brother Competition, named by the Chinese First and Second Guards, starts like the games. They provide international, expert judges, dignified atmosphere, awards and gifts.

In past years our gymnasts had no audience or invited from abroad because The International field was unknown. This year they invited a Japanese and invited from Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, France, Hungary, Korea, Switzerland, and the United States. Four gymnasts and one official were invited from the following countries: Belgian, New Zealand, Germany and official from their own country, Israel. Cup de Rhythme, also the IGD representative and their relatives. The officials from each country were: Nikolai Barilov (USSR), John Muller (USA), Lee Shuler (Israel), Jeanne Bourque (CND), Barbara Uhlir (Hungary), Yang Shao Kuan (China), Michelle Pichot (FRA), Hervé Dodec (FR), Jeanne Bourque (CND), Hervé Dodec (CND), and Yvonne Raud (Belgium).



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GYMNASTS JOURNEY TO LA '84

Bart Conner



(1984 photo © 1994 Dave Stock)



USA To Field Strongest Olympic Squads Ever

By Ward Black

"...PRESSURE..."

"You have to learn to pass yourself pressure. You're just like everybody else. Pressure. You've only had to run so far. So good, but you will come to a place where the only thing you feel is fear. Looked pure insanity there and could have no deal with pressure... Nowhere to look for inside where we all respond to pressure... Pressure."

—Billy Joel (*The Nylon Curtain*)

If you watched these 1984 Olympic Team Trials on ABC/TV over the weekend of June 1-3, the faces of both Kathy Johnson and Bart Conner in particular attested what kind of meet a "trial" can be. The Olympics and World Championships are indeed the most prestigious of competitive events, but they do not contain the pressure of the Trials themselves. To make the Team becomes most crucial than the major event itself. Most athletes agree: There is no room like a Trials floor for nervous performance as Johnson and Conner, the careers captured emotion depicted in part in Billy Joel's lyrics above. *life*

Ironically, Jacksonville, Florida has hosted the Olympic Trials for gymnastics in the last two "boycotted" Olympic years of 1980 and 1984. However, the infinite environment for each meet was as different as night and day. By all accounts, the pressure at the 1984 Trials was intense—and rightfully so!

Top photo (left) from left to right: Olympic Team Athletes and members (from left) Chris Anger, Jim Milam, Scott Johnson, Bart Conner, Jim McHugh, Tom Dugay, Mark Gafford, and Peter Waksman (USAG photo © 1984 Ward Black)

In 1980, all the Olympic athletes received was a plaque of participation on the lawn of the White House by President Jimmy Carter (no to make the US Olympic Gymnastics Team). 1984 became nothing short of earning an Olympic medal for Team Competition! In the shadow of these gymnastics Olympic Trials, winning neither gold at the end are Olympic medals of gold, silver and bronze. Now that's pressure.

What follows is an analysis of the 1984 US Olympic Team Trials for Men and Women, side-bars covering the scoring and preview of the competition at the Summer Games.

The Men's Competition Fortunately, the analysis of the Men's Olympic Trials was made quite easy...the best top six men finished in the top six slots, and in short, this team is the most competitive, most experienced team the US has ever fielded. In addition, the National Team depth is enormous compared to a decade ago in the 1974 World Championship—Versus Bulgaria—where the US men placed eighth. The Junior National Age Group Program is continuing this international competitiveness producing quality gymnasts largely looking toward Seoul South Korea in 1988. Everyone connected with the US Men's Program—beginning principals, coaches, judges, administrators, parents and those developing the National Team should take pride in this Olympic Team and the International Program.

How can you measure international experience? This Olympic Team can point accolades after four Olympic Teams, 16 World Championship Teams, four World University Games Teams, in excess of 16 Teams—Dual International Meets, not to mention three bronze medals and one gold medalist in Team and parallel bars from the 1979 Fort Worth World Championships and 35 years of experience on the Men's National Team. The team of Peter Vidmar, Mitch Gaylord, Tim Duggan, James Hartung, Scott Johnson and Bart Conner are readily ranked!

In the last five years Vidmar has won three out of four USA Team Trials and once again in Jacksonville, Vidmar demonstrated why he has won more important competitions than any other—a strong, consistent and well balanced set of compulsory and optional routines. He won both compulsory and options in Florida scoring 117.890. 5 ahead of Duggan who aggressively established second place in the Trials. Gaylord with a perfect 10.0 on parallel bars and a 9.5 on high bar averaged into third place in the Trials. Hartung re-established his trademark of strength and consistency matching his Championships of the USA score of 117.03 for a solid fourth position. Scoring a 98.7 in the optional session, Johnson edged out Conner for the fifth spot in the Trials competition. Since the scores were weighted with the Championships of the USA, held earlier this year in Houston, Illinois, the first ranking jumbled Gaylord and Duggan—and Conner and Johnson. See the individual scores on page 17 for complete score breakdowns.

The competition on the two August podiums amongst Japan, China and USA, though missing the Russians, will be superb. With Li Ning, Kao Chih-chien and Vidmar each leading his team from a tight team competition this USA boasts its finest team to date...experience depth, strongly improved compulsories and options with difficulty, originality and consistency. A "Team" Olympics is perhaps more advantageous to the US Olympic squad than any other. The advantage for UCLA's Vidmar, Gaylord and Duggan—the one, two, three Trials finishers—to compete at home in their college arena. Faulty rotation cannot be calculated and converted into the final USA team score average—but in no way can it hurt.

The scoring procedures though complicated for the many sports have caused observers and the media, was decided to ensure the Olympic Team was selected in a fair and consistent manner while allowing for injuries, absences or circumstances in the example cases of the Phil Gahoy, Tom Beach and Conner problems—but most importantly, the top six finished top six when all was said done, calculated and proved.



Tim Duggan performs his journal for results during the 1984 Olympic Trials in Jackson, MS. Tim Duggan, right, the USA's second place finisher. (USGF photo © 1984 Steve Rizzo)

Women's Competition This issue of the magazine will go to press in mid-July, and this analysis of the Olympic Trial results is due in Indianapolis by late June 1 occasion, that only because it remains a strong possibility that the final Olympic Team gymnasts could be radically different from those results at the Trials in Jacksonville.

Supply, the Trials are not really over yet. After the US Classic and American Classic, the Championships of the USA and the Olympics Trials, only four of seven gymnasts are guaranteed spots on the US Olympic Team. They are Mary Lou Retton, Julianne McNamara, Michelle Desautel and Pam Bleck. These women after three qualification competitions finished the Trials in first through fourth positions. The fifth and sixth and alternate selections for the team remain to be selected although it appears—depending upon further repeats—that the four gymnasts vying for those spots were determined in the same previously mentioned meets. Those gymnasts are Lucy Weener, Tamara Tolok, Marc Roethlisberger and Kathy Johnson.

Only after an Olympic Training Camp and a dual meet with Canada on July 15th will the Olympic Team be finalized. A selection committee appointed by the USGF's Women's International Program Committee of Olympic Coaches Don Peters, Ric Kremer and Debbie Geist will weigh and evaluate the results from the Trials Training Camp and USA vs Canada to determine who will and will not compete in Los Angeles.

The long, arduous and sometimes contentious process may be only half the story. The "real" Olympic Trials were held late last year, but now, going into July, many questions are still unanswered. Injurious? Politics? Budget? Training Camp? and USA vs. Canada results? Fortunately, those questions are made to the national media. For them, as well as for many in the gymnastics community, they keep asking Retton's experienced coach Bela Karolyi, "How many medals?" Karolyi's answer, "Who knows?", as told to USA Today.

This enthusiastic optimism for gold medal performances at Los Angeles gained momentum again at Trials. For four years, McNamara has ranked as one of the world's finest performers on the uneven bars; she was the bronze medalist at the 1981 Moscow World Championships, finishing behind GDR's Mani Graack and PRG's Ma Yuxiang. Cao McNamara won the gold bar home in Los Angeles! "Who knows?" Bela Karolyi said in June's issue of the *Olympian*. "1984 will bring 5 Olympics; her 1976 was Nuremberg."

Numerous has been悲观ism in the US Women's Program, but above Trials clearly demonstrated progress and improvement. One measure alone is striking. On beam, at both compulsories and options of 47 countries there was only one fall. In the 1981 World Championships, the USA was the highest scoring beam team. Nobody, not the Russians, East Germans, Romanians or Chinese were better.

And what about experience and depth? Of the eight women making up the eight members of the Olympic Squad their total years of national and international experience or number of World Championship or Olympic Teams do not match their male counterparts, however, neither does their international competition. Looking closer, their hours and experience number greater than any women's team yet. Between the eight racers, there is 29 years of national team experience, nine World Championship Teams, six Olympic Teams and a crew of 26 international dual meet competition teams.

With together a solid line on balance beam, the distinct advantages of a "home" Olympics, a couple of internationally elite gymnasts as McNamara and Retton, the experience of a veteran performer like Johnson, and add improved team depth and consistency... well, what you may have is a close meet between the USA, China and Romania with a couple of weeks to determine who wins the Olympic Team gold.

In Trials competition, Retton and McNamara methodically with high voltage and elegance placed first and second, confirming their finish from Championships of the USA. Dusseau, Black and Werner came to Jacksonville, not for the sunshine, but to secure placement on the 1984 Team. Trials experience paid off as Dusseau and Black edged onto the third and fourth secured positions. Tolonen, a seasoned Trials competitor, met the pressure challenge improving her score 8 from Championships and moved into sixth position with Romalisberger also helping her Championships score to take the seventh spot.

Prior to the meet, as with any Team Trials, it is assumed that the initial competition will go down to the last selected spot and the meet is not over until all the scores are in. No one could or would have predicted how true no-fault this Trials would be.

After a devastating break on her first event in compulsories (a crossed handstand on uneven bars resulting in a 7.0%), Johnson undertook the seemingly impossible task of regaining the valuable tenches which the Florida native did with raw courage and grit determination during the year of gymnastics experience that followed again. After the compulsory round, Diana Dusseau moved into sixth position. During the second round of optional competition—resulting—Dusseau was injured during the landing of a full revising Tschukar vault and was forced to drop out of the meet. This situation allowed Johnson to move into the eighth spot and placed Durban in an unofficial ninth spot (using 100 percent of her Championships of the USA score) pending the petition outcome.



June Retton (right) is among a strong complement of teenagers by whom current medalists for the 1984 Olympics are making their mark. Retton finished the Trials in Jacksonville 10th, qualifying three personnel to represent their national teams in 1984 Olympic trials.

Olympic Preview. Relentlessly speaking in gymnastics, any time top contenders are not in the competition it leaves the meet cover all quality and competitive aspects, more so in this summer's case for the women than the men. For the U.S. though, the boycott ensures a bonanza of medal possibilities. Looking at the results from the 1983 World Championships, the top 10 teams, top 15 all-around and event finalists, for the men, 50 percent will participate and for the women 35 percent of their competition will participate in Los Angeles. Even more important will be how well each affect the judging. There are no doubts that these should be the most fairly and accurately judged Olympics in recent history. The champion and medal winners should truly be deserving...

"The Home Court Advantage" (THCA) in analyzing past results, the effects of the boycott seem improvements strengths and weaknesses, my head leads me to one set of answers while everyone I talk to says THCA is, indeed, the decisive variable. And, after being in Moscow for the 1980 World Championships and seeing that THCA did for the Russians especially Alexander Dzhiaidze (he won long), I agree.

For the women, the three teams are the USA, Romania and China. I rank it as favorite being Romania with a close race between the USA and China. China probably stronger in compulsories but the USA has THCA. Then again, as Bela Karolyi has stated, "Who knows?" A couple of bonus falls by Romania, an injury here or there, a sparing USA team and, indeed, "Who knows?"

For the men, the three teams include the USA, Japan and China. Here again the reigning World Champion Chinese are

(continued on page 22)

MEN'S 1984 USGF GYMNASTICS OLYMPIC TRIALS

Jacksonville, FL 06/24-06/24

INDIVIDUAL SCORES

1. Peter Vidmar - UCLA

	FLOOR	HORSE	RINGS	VULN	PEARLS	H-SHRT	A-A
CAMP	9.70	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	94.90
OPT	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	94.90
TOTAL	19.30	19.20	19.20	19.20	19.20	19.20	117.80

3% CHAMPIONSHIPS (117.800 + 7% TRIALS) (12.880) = 117.880

2. Mark Geyer - UCLA

	FLOOR	HORSE	RINGS	VULN	PEARLS	H-SHRT	A-A
CAMP	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	94.90
OPT	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	94.90
TOTAL	19.20	19.20	19.20	19.20	19.20	19.20	117.100

3% CHAMPIONSHIPS (117.100 + 7% TRIALS) (12.880) = 117.880

3. Tim Daggett - UCLA

	FLOOR	HORSE	RINGS	VULN	PEARLS	H-SHRT	A-A
CAMP	9.65	9.65	9.70	9.70	9.60	9.60	94.90
OPT	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.70	9.60	9.60	94.90
TOTAL	19.20	19.20	19.20	19.40	19.60	19.60	117.200

3% CHAMPIONSHIPS (117.200 + 7% TRIALS) (12.880) = 117.880

4. James Hartman - Minnesota

	FLOOR	HORSE	RINGS	VULN	PEARLS	H-SHRT	A-A
CAMP	9.65	9.60	9.60	9.70	9.60	9.60	94.90
OPT	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.70	9.60	9.60	94.90
TOTAL	19.20	19.20	19.20	19.40	19.60	19.60	117.200

3% CHAMPIONSHIPS (117.200 + 7% TRIALS) (12.880) = 117.880

5. Scott Johnson - Minnesota

	FLOOR	HORSE	RINGS	VULN	PEARLS	H-SHRT	A-A
CAMP	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	94.90
OPT	9.70	9.60	9.60	9.70	9.60	9.60	94.90
TOTAL	19.30	19.30	19.30	19.60	19.70	19.70	118.600

3% CHAMPIONSHIPS (118.600 + 7% TRIALS) (12.880) = 119.880

6. Bill Conner - University

	FLOOR	HORSE	RINGS	VULN	PEARLS	H-SHRT	A-A
CAMP	9.70	9.70	9.70	9.60	9.60	9.60	94.90
OPT	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.70	9.60	9.60	94.90
TOTAL	19.30	19.30	19.30	19.40	19.60	19.60	119.700

3% CHAMPIONSHIPS (119.700 + 7% TRIALS) (12.880) = 119.880

7. Jimmie Major - Princeton

	FLOOR	HORSE	RINGS	VULN	PEARLS	H-SHRT	A-A
CAMP	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	94.90
OPT	9.70	9.70	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	94.90
TOTAL	19.30	19.30	19.30	19.40	19.60	19.60	119.800

3% CHAMPIONSHIPS (119.800 + 7% TRIALS) (12.880) = 119.880

8. Chris Heyes - Princeton

	FLOOR	HORSE	RINGS	VULN	PEARLS	H-SHRT	A-A
CAMP	9.70	9.70	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	94.90
OPT	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	94.90
TOTAL	19.30	19.30	19.30	19.40	19.60	19.60	119.800

3% CHAMPIONSHIPS (119.800 + 7% TRIALS) (12.880) = 119.880

9. Dan Hyatt - Tucson

	FLOOR	HORSE	RINGS	VULN	PEARLS	H-SHRT	A-A
CAMP	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	94.90
OPT	9.70	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	94.90
TOTAL	19.30	19.20	19.40	19.20	19.60	19.60	119.800

3% CHAMPIONSHIPS (119.800 + 7% TRIALS) (12.880) = 119.880

10. Brian Lauter - Princeton

	FLOOR	HORSE	RINGS	VULN	PEARLS	H-SHRT	A-A
CAMP	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	94.90
OPT	9.70	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	94.90
TOTAL	19.30	19.20	19.30	19.40	19.60	19.60	119.800

3% CHAMPIONSHIPS (119.800 + 7% TRIALS) (12.880) = 119.880

11. Bill S. Brooks - Cal

	FLOOR	HORSE	RINGS	VULN	PEARLS	H-SHRT	A-A
CAMP	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	94.90
OPT	9.70	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	94.90
TOTAL	19.30	19.20	19.30	19.40	19.60	19.60	119.800

3% CHAMPIONSHIPS (119.800 + 7% TRIALS) (12.880) = 119.880

12. Steve Davis - UCLA

	FLOOR	HORSE	RINGS	VULN	PEARLS	H-SHRT	A-A
CAMP	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	94.90
OPT	9.70	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	94.90
TOTAL	19.30	19.20	19.30	19.40	19.60	19.60	119.800

3% CHAMPIONSHIPS (119.800 + 7% TRIALS) (12.880) = 119.880

13. Phil Gentry - Minnesota

	FLOOR	HORSE	RINGS	VULN	PEARLS	H-SHRT	A-A
CAMP	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	94.90
OPT	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	94.90
TOTAL	19.30	19.30	19.30	19.40	19.60	19.60	119.800

3% CHAMPIONSHIPS (119.800 + 7% TRIALS) (12.880) = 119.880

14. Billy Fruel - UC Berkeley

	FLOOR	HORSE	RINGS	VULN	PEARLS	H-SHRT	A-A
CAMP	9.70	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	94.90
OPT	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	94.90
TOTAL	19.30	19.30	19.30	19.40	19.60	19.60	119.800

3% CHAMPIONSHIPS (119.800 + 7% TRIALS) (12.880) = 119.880

15. Matt Aronoff - New Mexico

	FLOOR	HORSE	RINGS	VULN	PEARLS	H-SHRT	A-A
CAMP	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	94.90
OPT	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	94.90
TOTAL	19.30	19.30	19.30	19.40	19.60	19.60	119.800

3% CHAMPIONSHIPS (119.800 + 7% TRIALS) (12.880) = 119.880

16. Jon Carlson - Tucson

	FLOOR	HORSE	RINGS	VULN	PEARLS	H-SHRT	A-A
CAMP	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	94.90
OPT	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	94.90
TOTAL	19.30	19.30	19.30	19.40	19.60	19.60	119.800

3% CHAMPIONSHIPS (119.800 + 7% TRIALS) (12.880) = 119.880

17. Jim Gandy - Tucson

	FLOOR	HORSE	RINGS	VULN	PEARLS	H-SHRT	A-A
CAMP	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	94.90
OPT	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	94.90
TOTAL	19.30	19.30	19.30	19.40	19.60	19.60	119.800

3% CHAMPIONSHIPS (119.800 + 7% TRIALS) (12.880) = 119.880

18. Jim Hansen - Princeton

	FLOOR	HORSE	RINGS	VULN	PEARLS	H-SHRT	A-A
CAMP	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	94.90
OPT	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	94.90
TOTAL	19.30	19.30	19.30	19.40	19.60	19.60	119.800

3% CHAMPIONSHIPS (119.800 + 7% TRIALS) (12.880) = 119.880

19. Matt Aronoff - New Mexico

	FLOOR	HORSE	RINGS	VULN	PEARLS	H-SHRT	A-A
CAMP	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	94.90
OPT	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.60	94.90
TOTAL	19.30	19.30	19.30	19.40	19.60	19.60	119.800

3% CHAMPIONSHIPS (119.800 + 7% TRIALS) (12.880) = 1



Don Verhaegh (left) in midair during his routine on parallel bars. Upper right: Michael Phelps (right) after his competition rings event before the 2004 Atlanta games where he打破世界紀錄。 (AP/CP photo © 1994 Steve DiGiulio)

DEPTH, EXPERIENCE, CONFIDENCE SPURS MEN

By Mike Bodkin
USA Gymnastics Editor

The feeling among the men's gymnastics team is one of great pride because this is the year they are going to make history. Not since the Olympics were held in Los Angeles in 1932 has a medal been won for the United States in gymnastics.

"We are going to be a part of history," said Peter Vidmar emphatically. "It is no longer a case of whether we will win a medal, but what color we are going to win."

Vidmar entered the Olympic Games fresh off his victory in the Trials which earned him "Winning the Olympic Trials was a big boost to my confidence." Not having competed in the NCAA Championships seemed to affect my performance in the Championships of the USA. The NCAA is such a high pressure meet that I use that tournament for the big national and international meets. I was more nervous than usual at the Championships but I settled down during the Trials and everything feels good now."

There is always that feeling of great apprehension before a big meet, but according to Vidmar, most of the pressure is lifted after making the Olympic team. "Now I'm excited to compete instead of worried."

Looking to the longrange effects that the



*1984 Olympian
Mitch Gaylord
1984 Champion of the USA*

Olympics will have on the United States, Vidmar feels that "Greece will have a great effect on the youth of America. It will be very good for the kids to have six idols instead of one. The exposure we get will help to bolster our youth programs which will be good for gymnastics."

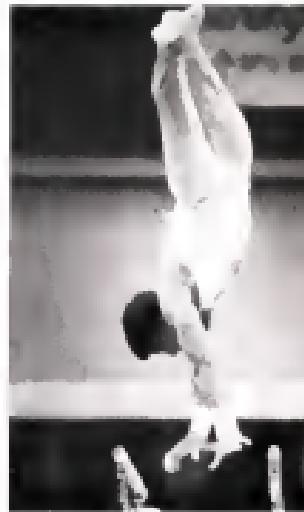
Bruce Conner can be considered a real veteran of the Olympic Games since he has one silver Olympic medal under his belt and another that slipped through his fingers in 1960. "This will be the most exciting of the three I almost competed in," said Conner. "With the competition being in the United States, it will be much more exciting."

Conner, among others, feels with the home venue, the US gymnasts will have a distinct advantage over its visitors. "There will be a lot of exposure through the media, but another important factor for me is that I won't have to travel. I will be used to the equipment, the food and the customs and that gives my mind more at ease."

The women's gymnasts plan to continue with their gymnastics career after the Olympics for at least one more year, which is good news to all those involved in the sport. Scott Johnson will be competing in his

first Olympics, but success has always been the goal. "This is something I set my sights on when I was younger, it was my ultimate goal in gymnastics. The more you dream and the more you improve, the more realistic the dream becomes. In 1980 when I made the national team, the dream became very realistic."

Tim Daggett echoes Johnson's thoughts. In the beginning, Daggett got involved in gymnastics just for the recreation. Then when he was in the 10th grade he attended a National Boys' Invitational in Pennsylvania



*1984 Olympian
Tim Daggett*

and that competition was the catalyst that spurred him on. "I saw how much better those other gymnasts were than me," said Daggett who went on to star at UCLA with fellow Olympians Vidmar and Mitch Gaylord. "That is when I turned serious about the sport and made the Olympics my goal."

Behind the Chinese and Japanese, the Americans seem to have third placed locked in. "I don't see anybody else can surpass us at our third spot," said Johnson.

There is a very close feeling between all of the Olympic gymnastics competitors. "This same team has been together since 1981,"

1984 Olympian Peter Vidmar



*1980-1984 Olympian
Jim Hartung*



*1984 Olympian
Scott Johnson*



*1976-1980-1984 Olympian
Bart Conner*

and Nebraska graduate Jim Hartung. "I am very team oriented. I guess I was just brought up that way. We are looking to perform to our absolute potential and if we do we will have an outside chance at a gold medal. That is if we get a lot of luck."

All of the athletes are looking to "keep out" on all 12 routines to help the coach select. But looking to the individual medals, some will have a chance at these. Valmar has a good attitude about medals. "We are all trying to put out our best routines and whatever the outcome is fine. It would be nice to win a medal or to do 12 routines, but I can't hope for anything more."

Hartung is looking to two events the floor exercise and the rings, in which he feels his expertise will shine through. "Maybe I have an outside chance at a medal on floor. Rings is my favorite, and I'm really getting excited about that competition. I feel I can do very well in that event." Dugger, on the other hand, is looking forward to the parallel bars. "I really do enjoy the bars. For what the judges and the people want to see, I seem to have it right now."

In every winning situation there are those who are in the background cheering the first team players on. The 1984 Men's Olympic Gymnastics team is not without these support players. Brian Meeker came off the last competition of his life in the Trials and was asked to participate in the Olympic Training Camp, something that came as somewhat of a surprise to him. "It's really an honor to be involved with the Olympic team and I feel my main goal is to help motivate the others. It's a little different situation being an alternate, a little harder, but it's still an honor," said Meeker.

Brian Meeker sees his role as one of a partner. "I have to be in the best shape of my life to help those guys keep going hard. We

don't have as much pressure on us as the others, so we are able to push them. The team is really psyched up to win a medal and we are all striving for perfection in our routines in optional and compulsories."

Jim Mikus is the athlete who珍惜es the razor's edge because he is the first alternate and if there should be an unfortunate occurrence, he would move up

one spot and win the Olympics. "I am treating this as the most important meet of my life and I don't think I will have any problem staying both mentally and physically ready. If I did get to compete, I don't think I would have much of a chance to win an individual medal but I would try to help the team win one."



*1984 Olympic Team
Alternate Jim Mikus*



Chris Riegel

Grossfeld: ‘More Team Depth’

By Mike Runkle
USA Gymnastics Editor

If being a plainboy was a requirement for being an Olympian, Coach sheet 1984 men's gymnastics head coach Abe Grossfeld would be able to predict the outcome of the Games before any of his team competed. But when the soft spoken coach did say this "The men's living before the Trials stated, 'This is exactly the team I thought it was going to be,'" said Grossfeld.

"There are always ones from these who want comparisons. Compare Bart Conner to Peter Vidmar, compare the compulsory strength to the optional, compare this team to the Olympic team from 1980." "It is very difficult to compare the two Olympic teams," said Gerashchenko. "One thing is for sure: there have been no more famous than this one."

Nose barge Those are pretty strong words from the Olympic Coach but he has the background and experience to be able to back that statement up. "Our point advantage is depth. There is one point difference between the number one man and the number six. This goes to something we have never had: depth and consistency."

Experience is another plus in the men's gymnastics representatives from the United States. The most experienced is three-time Olympian Bart Conner, ranked by some to become the "Bruce Jenner of the 1996 Games." Our team doesn't necessarily need the leadership. They are not young boys/teens and are all very experienced and we have a number of leaders. Bart's value is as a gymnast, his source enthraling and he will be in better shape than he was at the Trials. He's very valuable to the team!

While watching the Games, be on the lookout for Victoria and Michael Cyriakoff to do well in the all-around competition, but that teammates Jon Hartung, Conner and Tim Daggett will be very close behind them. "I feel we have a chance to place someone in the top three in the all-around," said Daniels. "That changes things, being third behind Shishkov. So could it end up being three?"

Speaking of the Chinese delegation, Crossfield sees them as the team to beat. "They are definitely the best. It would be a major upset if we beat the Chinese." But at not yet a two-country race for the gold in Los Angeles, Japan is an other strong contender and that our Mongolians should be able to handle. "I think we can beat the Japanese."

The focus of the Chinese government is on the

American and the rest of the world is that they are all excellent swimmers." The Chinese have an optional swimming class that they see as the best in the world," said the 1984 Olympic Coach. "That is the biggest difference between us. They also do very fit exercises in excellent conditions."

Getting a team with as much depth and experience prepared for an event like the Olympics is a tall order but the coach just tries to keep going. 'I'm not a professional psychologist, so I don't mess with them there. I keep an anxiousness in practice and am always pushing them to do their best. They pretty much have the right frame of mind anyway.'

One aspect that makes this year different than any other in the world is the fact these games are being staged in the United States, Hollywood with all the glitz and glamour the best producers can imagine. We have all the stars doing public relations for the Games and making all the outcome are million dollar contracts or the possibility of them. "I tell them that no one gold medal in Los Angeles could bring them a million dollars and that's going to inspire them," said Grossfeld. This year, these gamesmen should be wearing business suits instead of leotard gear.

Another plus this year will have is the home court advantage. For Valerie Gaylor and Dagger all four UCLA, this will be the same place as they competed their whole collegiate career. "This will be the best ad vantage we have. We are going to be inspired because of the home crowd cheering for them. When you are at home you feel very comfortable, the atmosphere is just better. This is the second year of the Pauley Pavilion.

During visits the meets proper, Grossell Id will have many choices to keep him busy but there is one that he feels is more important than the others. My concern would be to keep them (the generated) in a good frame of mind during a competition of this caliber, any little thing damages them. So I will be there to assist them. They will also ask advice of me. Should I do this, or should I do that. It is my duty to watch all the competitors and make a decision based on the type of the competition.

"If a high risk move will help them or if a win there that much I want to be right there to provide an answer."

There is more to the competition than sending the gymnasts out to compete one at a time. There is strategy involved in setting up the lineup. "Somebody has to go first and somebody has to go last. Many of the gymnasts don't like to be first because the scores tend to be lower and then again tend to be higher for the last people. If someone isn't as strong in one event, you may try to cover him by sending him out later in the competition. The judges are human and after judging for so long they tend to have lapses in concentration so you might be able to score more marks."

Politics and judging. In sports, some argue the two should never be mixed; others say they should be, but that it may be the two are definitely connected. But at the Olympics, Grossoff thinks the winners will be the gymnasts and the gymnastics committee. "I think the judging will be fairer because the Eastern Bloc countries are not going to attend. The judges won't have that pressure on them. What you will see will be a true indication of the Olympics."



After Christmas 2004 was a Polymer Church. This is what the Chinese meant when they called it a "polymer church". They wanted to change their religion through Jesus from Japan. It was planned to

(from page 16)

the gold medal favorite. The meet between the USA and Japan should be a classic! The Japanese have no compulsion left by a superb technician—Koji Gushiken, but do they have enough depth to match the US' men? This U.S. Men's Team has never been so strong, one through six! Consistency? Consistency? Ah yes! The USA...it should be an absolutely remarkable meet!

In conclusion, the preview could not be complete without mentioning Conner. He is, after all, Conner's last Olympic Team and perhaps his International career—a home meet. For a

decade, Conner has helped to lead the USA Men's Team into the inner circle of the international elite. He has won just about everything he could set his goals on—from the Illinois High School State Meet to the NCAA's, the Championships of the USA, the American Cup, and gold medals at the World Cup and World Championships. And a bronze team medal at the 1979 World Championships. He has fought through policies and fought back after injuries. An Olympic medal is all he needs to complete his career, and he should win along with all members of the U.S. Men's and Women's 1984 Olympic Teams.

MEN'S 1984 OLYMPIC GYMNASTICS OLYMPIC TRIALS

Jacksonville, FL 08-23-1984

INDIVIDUAL SCORES (REGULAR COMP. EXCEPT 40%)

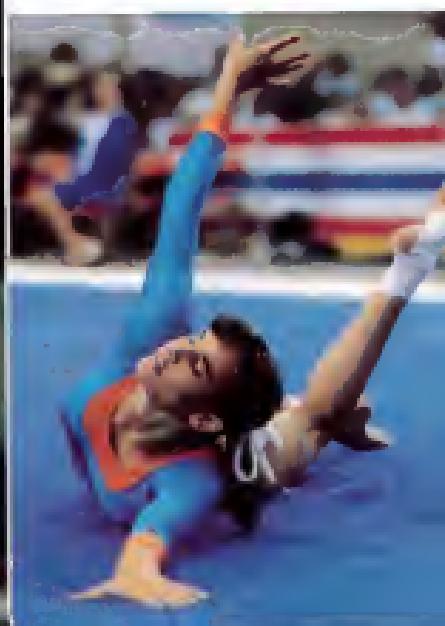
		ST	MT	PT	REGULAR =	COMP	OPT	OPT	TOTAL
					COMP	OPT	OPT	OPT	TOTAL
1 M.L. Rizzo	RAVULT	BARS	BEAM	FLOOR	AA				
Kerthy	COMP	8.78	9.00	9.35	9.75	39.98			
	OPT	8.80	9.00	9.35	9.75	39.98			
	TOTAL	18.58	18.00	18.70	19.50	79.46			
40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (77.00) • 100% TRIALS (77.00) = 77.00									
2 J. McNease	Kerthy	COMP	8.80	9.00	9.40	9.60	39.80	11.10	11.10
	OPT	8.75	9.00	9.50	9.60	39.75	11.05	11.05	
	TOTAL	18.32	18.00	18.50	19.40	77.14			
40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (77.00) • 100% TRIALS (77.00) = 77.00									
3 M. Garett	SCATS	BARS	BEAM	FLOOR	AA				
Kerthy	COMP	8.10	8.30	8.50	8.80	35.30	12.10	12.10	
	OPT	8.10	8.30	8.50	8.80	35.30	12.05	12.05	
	TOTAL	16.00	16.00	16.00	17.60	75.60			
40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (75.60) • 100% TRIALS (75.60) = 75.60									
4 P. Forniak	SCATS	BARS	BEAM	FLOOR	AA				
Kerthy	COMP	8.40	8.60	8.80	9.20	37.00	12.10	12.10	
	OPT	8.35	8.60	8.80	9.20	36.95	12.05	12.05	
	TOTAL	16.75	16.00	17.00	18.40	76.35			
40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (76.35) • 100% TRIALS (76.35) = 76.35									
5 L. Werner	SCATS	BARS	BEAM	FLOOR	AA				
Kerthy	COMP	8.00	8.20	8.70	9.00	37.70	14.10	14.10	
	OPT	8.00	8.20	8.70	9.00	37.70	14.05	14.05	
	TOTAL	16.00	16.00	16.00	17.40	75.10			
40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (75.10) • 100% TRIALS (75.10) = 75.10									
6 T. Tilishev	Golding Gym	BARS	BEAM	FLOOR	AA				
Kerthy	COMP	8.70	8.80	9.00	9.75	37.25	16.00	16.00	
	OPT	8.70	8.80	9.00	9.75	37.25	15.95	15.95	
	TOTAL	17.40	16.00	17.00	19.25	74.45			
40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (74.45) • 100% TRIALS (74.45) = 74.45									
7 M. Reddinger-Gold	SCATS	BARS	BEAM	FLOOR	AA				
Kerthy	COMP	8.00	8.20	8.50	8.40	37.90	16.00	16.00	
	OPT	8.00	8.20	8.50	8.40	37.90	15.95	15.95	
	TOTAL	16.00	16.00	16.00	17.80	75.70			
40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (75.70) • 100% TRIALS (75.70) = 75.70									
8 K. Johnson	SCATS	BARS	BEAM	FLOOR	AA				
Kerthy	COMP	8.70	8.80	9.00	9.75	37.75	16.00	16.00	
	OPT	8.70	8.80	9.00	9.75	37.75	15.95	15.95	
	TOTAL	17.40	16.00	17.00	19.25	74.45			
40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (74.45) • 100% TRIALS (74.45) = 74.45									
9 T. Elliott	SCATS	BARS	BEAM	FLOOR	AA				
Kerthy	COMP	8.20	8.40	8.60	9.20	37.80	16.00	16.00	
	OPT	8.20	8.40	8.60	9.20	37.80	15.95	15.95	
	TOTAL	16.40	16.00	16.00	17.60	74.00			
40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (74.00) • 100% TRIALS (74.00) = 74.00									
10 T. Hines	Team Aces	BARS	BEAM	FLOOR	AA				
Kerthy	COMP	8.00	8.20	8.50	8.80	37.50	16.00	16.00	
	OPT	8.00	8.20	8.50	8.80	37.50	15.95	15.95	
	TOTAL	16.00	16.00	16.00	17.30	73.80			
40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (73.80) • 100% TRIALS (73.80) = 73.80									
11 S. Homan	Reebok	BARS	BEAM	FLOOR	AA				
Kerthy	COMP	8.70	8.80	9.00	9.75	37.75	16.00	16.00	
	OPT	8.70	8.80	9.00	9.75	37.75	15.95	15.95	
	TOTAL	17.40	16.00	17.00	19.25	74.45			
40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (74.45) • 100% TRIALS (74.45) = 74.45									
12 J. Sims	Team Aces	BARS	BEAM	FLOOR	AA				
Kerthy	COMP	8.00	8.20	8.50	8.80	37.50	16.00	16.00	
	OPT	8.00	8.20	8.50	8.80	37.50	15.95	15.95	
	TOTAL	16.00	16.00	16.00	17.30	73.80			
40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (73.80) • 100% TRIALS (73.80) = 73.80									
13 L. McNease	Miracle Team	BARS	BEAM	FLOOR	AA				
Kerthy	COMP	8.00	8.20	8.50	8.80	37.50	16.00	16.00	
	OPT	8.00	8.20	8.50	8.80	37.50	15.95	15.95	
	TOTAL	16.00	16.00	16.00	17.30	73.80			
40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (73.80) • 100% TRIALS (73.80) = 73.80									
14 B. Hayes	Kerthy	BARS	BEAM	FLOOR	AA				
Kerthy	COMP	8.00	8.20	8.50	8.80	37.50	16.00	16.00	
	OPT	8.00	8.20	8.50	8.80	37.50	15.95	15.95	
	TOTAL	16.00	16.00	16.00	17.30	73.80			
40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (73.80) • 100% TRIALS (73.80) = 73.80									
15 M. Goodwill	Mirko	BARS	BEAM	FLOOR	AA				
Kerthy	COMP	8.00	8.20	8.50	8.80	37.50	16.00	16.00	
	OPT	8.00	8.20	8.50	8.80	37.50	15.95	15.95	
	TOTAL	16.00	16.00	16.00	17.30	73.80			
40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (73.80) • 100% TRIALS (73.80) = 73.80									
16 Tom Brack	Caliber	BARS	BEAM	FLOOR	AA				
Kerthy	COMP	8.10	8.30	8.50	8.80	37.40	16.00	16.00	
	OPT	8.10	8.30	8.50	8.80	37.40	15.95	15.95	
	TOTAL	16.20	16.00	16.00	17.30	73.90			
40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (73.90) • 100% TRIALS (73.90) = 73.90									
17 T. Campbell	UCLA	BARS	BEAM	FLOOR	AA				
Kerthy	COMP	8.00	8.20	8.50	8.80	37.50	16.00	16.00	
	OPT	8.00	8.20	8.50	8.80	37.50	15.95	15.95	
	TOTAL	16.00	16.00	16.00	17.30	73.80			
40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (73.80) • 100% TRIALS (73.80) = 73.80									
18 Michael Lewis	WWE	BARS	BEAM	FLOOR	AA				
Kerthy	COMP	8.00	8.20	8.50	8.80	37.50	16.00	16.00	
	OPT	8.00	8.20	8.50	8.80	37.50	15.95	15.95	
	TOTAL	16.00	16.00	16.00	17.30	73.80			
40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (73.80) • 100% TRIALS (73.80) = 73.80									
19 Joey Ray	Merrell	BARS	BEAM	FLOOR	AA				
Kerthy	COMP	8.70	8.80	9.00	9.20	38.70	16.00	16.00	
	OPT	8.70	8.80	9.00	9.20	38.70	15.95	15.95	
	TOTAL	17.40	16.00	17.00	18.20	75.80			
40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (75.80) • 100% TRIALS (75.80) = 75.80									
20 Roy Patterson	Caliber	BARS	BEAM	FLOOR	AA				
Kerthy	COMP	8.00	8.20	8.50	8.80	37.50	16.00	16.00	
	OPT	8.00	8.20	8.50	8.80	37.50	15.95	15.95	
	TOTAL	16.00	16.00	16.00	17.30	73.80			
40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (73.80) • 100% TRIALS (73.80) = 73.80									
21 M. McDowell	Caliber	BARS	BEAM	FLOOR	AA				
Kerthy	COMP	8.00	8.20	8.50	8.80	37.50	16.00	16.00	
	OPT	8.00	8.20	8.50	8.80	37.50	15.95	15.95	
	TOTAL	16.00	16.00	16.00	17.30	73.80			
40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (73.80) • 100% TRIALS (73.80) = 73.80									
22 M. Goodman	Mirko	BARS	BEAM	FLOOR	AA				
Kerthy	COMP	8.00	8.20	8.50	8.80	37.50	16.00	16.00	
	OPT	8.00	8.20	8.50	8.80	37.50	15.95	15.95	
	TOTAL	16.00	16.00	16.00	17.30	73.80			
40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (73.80) • 100% TRIALS (73.80) = 73.80									
23 D. Garman	Kerthy	BARS	BEAM	FLOOR	AA				
Kerthy	COMP	8.70	8.80	9.00	9.20	38.70	16.00	16.00	
	OPT	8.70	8.80	9.00	9.20	38.70	15.95	15.95	
	TOTAL	17.40	16.00	17.00	18.20	75.80			
40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (75.80) • 100% TRIALS (75.80) = 75.80									
24 D. Barnes	NASC	BARS	BEAM	FLOOR	AA				
Kerthy	COMP	8.40	8.60	8.80	9.20	38.00	16.00	16.00	
	OPT	8.40	8.60	8.80	9.20	38.00	15.95	15.95	
	TOTAL	17.20	16.00	17.00	18.20	74.40			
40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (74.40) • 100% TRIALS (74.40) = 74.40									

		ST	MT	PT	REGULAR =	COMP	OPT	OPT	TOTAL
					COMP	OPT	OPT	OPT	TOTAL
1 M.L. Rizzo	RAVULT	BARS	BEAM	FLOOR	AA				
Kerthy	COMP	8.78	9.00	9.35	9.75	39.98			
	OPT	8.80	9.00	9.35	9.75	39.98			
	TOTAL	18.58	18.00	18.70	19.50	79.46			
40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (77.00) • 100% TRIALS (77.00) = 77.00									
2 J. McNease	Kerthy	COMP	8.80	9.00	9.40	9.60	39.80	11.10	11.10
	OPT	8.75	8.95	9.50	9.60	39.75	11.05	11.05	
	TOTAL	18.32	18.00	18.50	19.40	77.14			
40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (77.00) • 100% TRIALS (77.00) = 77.00									
3 M. Garett	SCATS	BARS	BEAM	FLOOR	AA				
Kerthy	COMP	8.10	8.30	8.50	8.80	35.30	12.10	12.10	
	OPT	8.10	8.30	8.50	8.80	35.30	12.05	12.05	
	TOTAL	16.00	16.00	16.00	17.40	76.35			
40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (76.35) • 100% TRIALS (76.35) = 76.35									
4 P. Forniak	SCATS	BARS	BEAM	FLOOR	AA				
Kerthy	COMP	8.40	8.60	8.80	9.20	37.00	12.10	12.10	
	OPT	8.35	8.60	8.80	9.20	36.95	12.05	12.05	
	TOTAL	16.75	16.00	17.00	18.40	76.35			
40% CHAMPIONSHIPS (76.35) • 100% TRIALS (76.35) = 76.35									
5 L. Werner	SCATS	BARS	BEAM	FLOOR	AA				
Kerthy	COMP	8.00	8.20	8.50	8.80	37.70	1		

July/August 1984



...but once the tumblers learn to do this, they're good to go. And the best move now is to pass through the bars, given more air and action. (Photo: Robert M. Sargent) (Inset photo: John Gollings/Photo: Michael J. Lamon)





1984 USA Women

Kathy Johnson

Marie Roethlisberger

Tracee Takacs

Lucy Winer



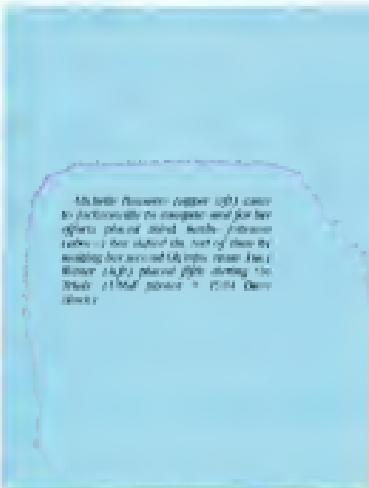
's Olympic Team

Amie Bileck

Michelle Dussault

Juliianne McNamara

Mary Lou Retton



USA Gymnastics

Static Energy Runs Through Women's Team

By Mike Berkman
USA Gymnastics Editor

It seems too good to be true for the fortunes of the United States gymnasts in Los Angeles. For the girls on the Olympic team there is great anticipation that their efforts will bring home a medal.

The intensity of the American squad is West Virginia native Mary Lou Retton. How well the team does will depend on how well Retton does, and from the sounds of it, she is approaching the meet with a "take no prisoners" attitude.

"I am taking the Olympics as I would any other big international meet. We (Retton and her coach Bela Karolyi) take things very seriously and this one is no different."

Retton has developed into one of the clear-cut stars for the American squad. In the past year she has taken the



Mary Lou Retton smiles after a press conference for the 1984 Olympic Trials held in Jacksonville, Fla. (AP/Wide World Photos)

American Cup title, Championship of the USA title and placed first in the Trials, and this all coming back from an injury that kept her from competing in the World Championships. She has the possibility to garner more than one medal and with her attitude will to win, will give it her best shot. "I am probably favored in the vault and the floor exercise," said Retton.

Her domination of the women's side of the sport was carefully orchestrated by her coach, the man who did the same thing for Nadia Comaneci in the Montreal Olympics. Karolyi has all the confidence in the world in Karolyi and says, "I'm sure he will peak me at the right time."

Another medal hopeful is Julianne McNamara who was also a member of the phantom 1980 Olympic squad. Being a member of that team and not getting to compete was all the inspiration she needed to go for it in 1984. "The fact that we didn't get to compete in 1980 helped inspire me to carry on for another four years. Now I'm in the best shape of my career and I want to go out and have the best meet of my career."

McNamara knows what it is like to have the Olympics taken away from her, but that is a fact of life that every

athlete must deal with. "It is sad for the American athletes that they are not going to compete, but that's the way it goes. There are no guarantees. I feel the competition will be very close with or without them," said McNamara.

There are visitors of medals circling through McNamara's head and she feels she has more than a valid chance at one of them. "I have a really good chance in bars. Participating in the Olympics has been a lifelong dream. After 1980 I managed to stay in either second or third place so I was in good position. Now that I am going to make that dream it is very special to me."

The oldest member of the women's Olympic squad is Kathy Johnson who set a prelude during the training camp. This is her second try at competing in the Games, her first obliterated by the 1980 boycott.

The biggest difference between this team and the one in 1980 is that for the first time we have a legitimate shot at the gold medal. In 1980 we just had the opportunity to compete against the world's best. Now we will be there for sure," said Johnson.

Now the boycott is on the other foot and the Russian black nation will see that. **Off to a strong start** (RIGHT)



Julianne McNamara, above, on floor, ready to come through for the Americans in the Olympics as she follows through the floor. (AP/Wide World Photos)



Michelle Kwan, from JAGP, comes through at the floor with a great move and a third-place finish.



Lisa Black, of USA, comes from a family of strong performers for place on the Olympic squad (ANG photo by Peter Black).

be attending and for some of our gymnasts she brings mixed emotions. "I have gone through different stages," said Johnson. "There was a time when it bothered me, but now it doesn't matter if the Russians will be there. We will have a chance to win a medal."

Tracee Talavera was another off the 1980 squad that didn't get the opportunity to compete. "I feel this team has more depth than the other one. In 1980 we never had a training camp."

There was a while when it looked as though Talavera was going to drop out from the world's elite gymnasts, but at last she has made "somewhat of a



Lucy Wiener above gives a commanding performance during the Trials. Far her consistency she placed ninth.



Tracie Furrer, in off her 10th place finish, makes her case for her second Olympic team.

comeback." She has done what every other athlete wants to do, and that is to compete. "I have improved a lot in the last couple of meets and I am planning on getting better."

Another gymnast that came on at the end was Michelle Bassett. She surprised everyone, including herself, by taking third in the Olympic Trials, and securing her spot in history. "I am really excited about the Olympics now but after the Trials I didn't expect to finish that high. I had a good meet on beam and during floor exercise."

Fan Black took fourth place, but she attributed her great finish to her placement after the Championships of the USA in Chicago recently. "I was in a very good position after the Championships. I am always trying to improve and am trying to perfect my routines. I should get better as practice goes on," said the Santa Clara, California, Black is looking forward to the Olympics and thinks the home court advantage will be very good for the team. "It will be a definite advantage for us. I have competed in Pauley Pavilion before during the USA/USA meet so it isn't a strange place."

But all sharing the training camp and on into the Olympic Games there will be a high voltage of spirit that runs through the girls. "I am very excited that I made the team," said a giggling Lucy Wiener. Mary Koeth (herge) is another excited gymnast. "I think it will be a great honor to compete in the Olympic Games. If the team can stay healthy, we have more than an outsiders chance at a medal."

There are always those that see in

Mark Dostál (left), of USA, did a coach performance during the trials, joining just ahead of some spectators. Linda Johnson (right) is a coach and judge photo finish in the attempt for the second

the background, but never get the chance to compete. One such gymnast is Yvonne Modic. She has the fortune to finish ninth in the Trials and so was invited to participate in the training camp that was held before the Games. "I trained very hard and always hoped none would get hurt. It was a good experience for me and should help my gymnastics. It is very exciting being a part of the Olympics, even though I know I'm not going to be able to go." So with great enthusiasm Modic will stay behind. What will she do? "I am going to watch the Olympics on television because I couldn't get a ticket. But I'll get to see a lot. I'm sure."



Peters:

More Than Just A Chance

By Mike Bodkin
USA Gymnastics Editor

Women's Olympic Coach Bert Peters likes the position his athletes are in for the Games. With all of the pressure that is put on the Russians to win, he feels there will be much more on the other participating countries.

"We are considered the slight underdogs with the edge going to the Russians. I like being in that position because the pressure will be on the Russians to win and not on us," said Peters. "Our team has nothing to lose and everything to gain during the Olympic competition."

So heading into the 1984 Olympics with no strangers from the United States has never impressed Peters. Peters feels very confident his charges will be up for the task ahead of them. But as their coach, he has definite plans to get them into the position to win.

"I see this competition as a three-way race with the Russians, the Chinese and the USA. For us to win we must be in either first place after the competition or within striking distance, less than one point down. If we perform very hard, I am confident we will do well."

In a gymnastics competition of this magnitude, new and dazzling tricks seem to pop up unexpectedly, but not according to Peters. "I think we in the gymnastics community have seen everything. I don't expect anything different from the World Championships. The Olympics are a very important meet so you aren't going to take any chances."

Waiting is going to involve a little luck and scores in the range of the mid-eights. "We must score 9.5 or 9.6 to be in contention. I feel the scores will range from 9.6 to 9.9."

Preparing the gymnasts physically for the meet is a structured task and can be done with a strict schedule with special attention paid to the amount of work allowed each day. "I want to avoid burn out," said Peters. "If you work the athlete too hard they won't be as sharp."

Peters is stressing the mental aspect of the Games because he feels many obstacles can be overcome if the athlete is truly mentally prepared. "I believe the homework creates the results. What you do the day of the meet

won't make that much difference. The critical part of the competition comes weeks before. The last couple of weeks should be spent on mental preparation."

As an example, Peters pointed out the case of Marne Bachlisberger. In between the Championships of the USA and the Olympic Trials, she injured her elbow and couldn't train the week before the Trials. She was prepared both physically and mentally and won gold and silver medals because she knew she could do them.

Another aspect Peters is instilling in the Olympic team is the team spirit. "The Olympics are team competition. This is many times lost with all of the individual media writers. But it was because of the individuals that the medal was possible. You can't do it alone. The kids who won the medals will share them with the rest of the team. The kids are all behind each other."

even the four who aren't going to compete."

Exposure and opportunity are two words that dominate the conversation of the women's Olympic coach. "The Olympics represents a learning period in our sport. It is a chance to popularize our sport in the USA. We are going to have prime time coverage and we will have more people watching than ever before. The other television stations might well shut down for a week. We have the opportunity to become household names. I believe financially it will have a great impact also," said Peters.

In addition to a great opportunity for the sport, Peters feels the job of coaching the female Olympic gymnasts is a challenge and big responsibility. "I feel the responsibility but I am not dreading it. I need to keep the team psychologically motivated and try to develop that pleasant anticipation in them for the event. I feel it's going to be a lot of fun."



Bert Peters likes the role of motivating his female gymnasts for the Games. He feels many obstacles can be overcome if the athlete is truly mentally prepared. "I believe the homework creates the results. What you do the day of the meet

Harrah's Trump Plaza

RSG
History
Boardwalk
Atlantic

Valerie Zaininger



(USGF photo © 1984 Dave Black)

Michelle Berube

By Mike Bocklin
USA Gymnastics Editor

It was a moon filled with excitement and anguish: where lady luck turned sour just as the big bets were played. That was the scene at the 1984 Rhythmic Gymnastics Olympics Trials June 16-17 in Atlantic City where the boardwalk turned to yellow brick for Valorie Zitting, Michelle Berube, and Lydia Rose as they began their trek to the Emerald City, Los Angeles, and to the Olympics Games.

For those rhythmic gymnasts and their coaches, it was a long awaited day. A day when their sport acquired its first Olympic squad. It was the realization of many dreams and the release of many pressures. "When I took my place on the podium after the meet, I felt a great feeling of relief like a large weight was taken off my shoulders," said the number one finisher Zitting. "There was a lot of pressure on all of us from the very beginning," said Berube. "I'm glad it is over."

As it will be in a gambling town, there are always winners and those on the outside of Lady Luck. Martha Karpinsky had been riding the crest of good fortune all week. First it was the decision at the 11th hour to grant her US citizenship, thus allowing her to compete in the trials. Then it was her great performance throughout the competition which had her securely locked into third place going into the final round. But just as she was about to ride in her winnings, her hand was slapped and her bet stayed on the table and that led to disaster.

It was during her final ribbon routine when she had a mechanical failure which caused her ribbon to separate from its stem making it impossible for her to finish her routine. For her partial routine, she received the lowest score of her competitive career, a 7.04 opening the door for three to gain the third place spot on the podium.

"A sort of broke," said a disappointed Karpinsky. "I have only seen this happen once before and that was in practice. I checked all my equipment before I went on and I saw

Made On Of City

nothing wrong." When the ribbon separated, she could hear the judges mutter Karynsky just stood there with her hands over her mouth. "I didn't know what to do. I thought I had it under control and I just turned and walked off. I heard I had been training very hard for the competition. I was ready for it and I am having a very good year," she concluded.

But with every rule of mathematics in sports there is always someone on the other side who benefits. That person was Lydia Bree. In the last two days, Bree was able to rise over the third spot, that of alternate on the Olympic squad.

Not to blow things out of proportion, but Bree's good fortune came about due to her consistent performance throughout the competition. Here, who was bouncing back after a disappointing championship of the U.S. team which gave her her lowest finish ever to that point, came through with eight good solid routines. But it was her final routine, the ribbon, where she defeated Karynsky, that was probably her best of the competition. "I wanted my expression and color to come through in the routine," said Bree. "Finally I could express myself and show everybody I deserved to be on the Olympic team."

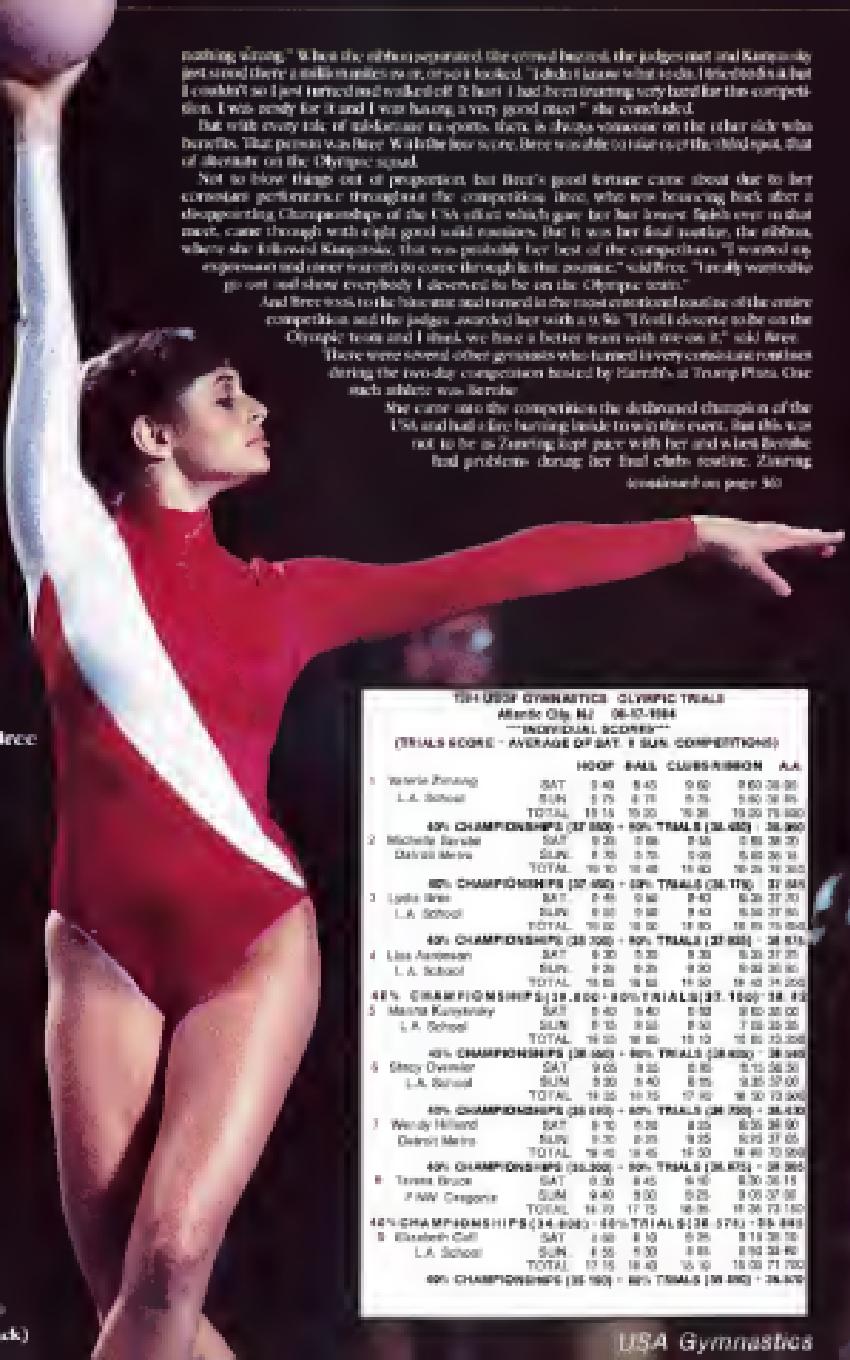
And Bree took no flack from the crowd in the most emotional routine of the entire competition and the judges awarded her with a 9.76. "I feel I deserve to be on the Olympic team and I think we have a better team with me on it," said Bree.

There were several other gymnasts who turned in very consistent routines during the two-day competition hosted by Hammons at Truemp Plaza. One such athlete was Barbara.

She came into the competition the defending champion of the U.S. and had a long history to win this event. But this was not to be as Truemp kept pace with her and a host trouble had problems during her final state routine. Starting

continued on page 50

Lydia Bree



1984 USGF GYMNASTICS OLYMPIC TRIALS

Atlantic City, NJ - 06/10-1984

—INDIVIDUAL SCORES—

(TRIALS SCORE = AVERAGE OF SAT. & SUN. COMPETITIONS)

HOOP, RING, CLUB, RIBBON, AA

1. Victoria Komagata	SAT.			SUN.		
	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	19.15	19.20	19.26	19.26	19.26
2. Michelle Karsse	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	19.10	19.10	19.10	19.10	19.10
3. Linda Bree	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	19.02	19.00	19.05	19.05	19.05
4. Barbara Karynsky	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.93	18.93	18.93	18.93	18.93
5. Marita Karynsky	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.93	18.93	18.93	18.93	18.93
6. Stacy Danner	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.92	18.92	18.92	18.92	18.92
7. Wendy Hillard	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.85	18.85	18.85	18.85	18.85
8. Terri Bruce	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.79	18.75	18.86	18.86	18.86
9. Barbara Mihnevski-Hipps	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.78	18.78	18.78	18.78	18.78
10. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
11. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
12. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
13. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
14. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
15. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
16. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
17. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
18. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
19. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
20. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
21. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
22. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
23. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
24. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
25. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
26. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
27. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
28. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
29. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
30. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
31. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
32. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
33. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
34. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
35. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
36. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
37. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
38. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
39. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
40. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
41. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
42. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
43. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
44. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
45. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
46. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
47. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
48. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
49. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
50. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
51. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
52. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
53. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
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	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
55. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
56. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
57. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
58. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
59. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
60. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
61. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
62. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
63. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
64. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
65. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
66. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
67. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
68. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
69. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
70. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
71. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
72. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
73. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
74. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
75. Elizabeth Caff	SAT.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.	SUM.
	TOTAL	18.75	18.75			

Pioneer Spirit Lives In Zimring

By Mike Bestkin
USA Gymnastics Editor

In this day of high technology, it is hard to find an area where there are any pioneers. But 1984 Rhythmic National Champion and USA Olympic team member Valerie Zimring feels she has found her spot. "It's next to know that you have helped start something and I think it's going to be big."

What the Los Angeles native is referring to is the fact she is on the first Rhythmic Gymnastics Olympic team ever and as a member of that team, she is introducing that sport into the 1984 Olympics. "It has been hard to be involved in an unknown sport. When I first became involved, no one accepted it. I was at meets where people laughed at me because they thought I looked ridiculous."

Well, all that has changed now and as Zimring admits, "the sport has improved by leaps and bounds over the past couple of years." During the early days of rhythmic gymnastics, there were times when the only people watching the sport were the parents of the athletes and the judges. But with the widespread publicity the sport has been receiving of late, the crowds have improved and so has the audience's understanding. "It is easier to perform when there are people in the stands. No longer are you performing for just the judges. Now if I go out and perform my routines for the crowd and I have found it much easier to get more involved in my craft and express myself."

For the American team to be assigned a big house for the Games to be held in Los Angeles, "People used to say to me that it was a shame the Olympics weren't being held in some far away place that I have been to all those far away places for other international competitions," Zimring admits. "Now I will be performing in front of all my friends because they have all gone out and bought tickets which makes it a lot easier for me. It takes some of the pressure off."

Zimring, who lives a stones throw away from the UCLA campus site of the 1984 Olympic Gymnastics competition, is grateful for the home town crowd. "In big international competitions far away from home, I feel very intimidated. But by performing so close to home the pressure will be on the other international rhythmic gymnasts. The crowd will be behind the USA and I feel that will give us a big advantage."

Every day friends, members of the press, and Zimring herself, asks herself the big question: "What about a medal for the USA?" "I would love to get a medal and I don't think that is really out of the question I am going to try."

But she admits, the medal isn't the most important aspect of the Olympics that is on



her mind. "I want to go out and have a good time, to do my best and to represent the country in the best possible manner. The medals are important, sure, but I have to feel good about myself. If I do that and I perform well then I will have succeeded in my goal."

So far in her illustrious career, rhythmic gymnastics has been the major part of her life. She has been involved in the sport for 10 years and was in artistic gymnastics before that. With the realization of her dream making the Olympic team, there are other aspects she is now considering. "I want to go to college and will be attending UCLA in the fall. I would like to stay in the sport in some fashion, but I haven't decided in what way."

Zimring admits she always had the Olympic dream in her head, even from the beginning when rhythmic gymnastics wasn't an Olympic sport. But it took the experience of her coach Alia Atkinson, the 1981 Rhythmic Gymnastics Olympic Coach, to give her the guidance she needed. One of my problems in the past few years was I didn't know what I wanted. I didn't know if my heart was in it or not. But Alia has showed me that I could attain my dream and pushed me to it."

There are several aspects of everyday life an athlete must juggle in order to train for a particular event. One of those is a social life. "Many of my friends that were involved in gymnastics when I first started dropped out to focus a social life. They were always asking me why I stayed in and didn't always understand when I told them why. Now I

Valerie Zimring (center) finds the critics the easiest opponents to beat. "We'd thought we made big mistakes but I always feel like we exceed our expectations," she says. (Official photo © 1984 USA Gymnastics)

think they understand and I feel they wish they had stuck with it. I don't think I have missed that much."

By sticking to her guns, Zimring has been able to stand for the stars. She has knocked up international travel and exposure in her gun belt, something other girls her age haven't experienced. "In a lot of ways I feel older than my friends. I understand more about life and what it takes to achieve goals. I don't know anyone who has dedicated themselves as much as a gymnast and that on itself teaches you a lot."

These are special feelings that are reserved just for those who make an Olympic team. The chance to represent your country, to stand on the victor's stand and hear the National Anthem being played with pride up and down the ranks of fellow countrymen wherever they may be located. "My whole career has been an incredible experience. The best feeling is how really proud of myself I am. During the Olympics I am going to try and beat the competition as much as possible. As any other big event and not like the Olympics I'm going to go out and do the best I can."

Berube's Goals Set High

By Mike Bottkin
USA Gymnastics Editor

The greatest ideas can come from just goofing around and Michelle Berube can attest to that. The 1984 rhythmic gymnastics Olympic team member came up with a move for her ball routine one day while sitting on the floor with friend Amy Shae.

"I guess we should call it the Michelle and Amy move. We were just fooling around when I rolled the ball down my arm, delayed it on my back then rolled it back down the same arm. I thought this was pretty neat and started practicing it and decided to incorporate it into my routine."

When Berube is performing, she has a certain talent to get close to the audience. She conveys this through her facial expressions and the use of her tricks in conjunction with the music she chooses. "It has always been my goal to perform and when I do I have to be very exact. I am such an emotional person I have to be totally into my routine. I like to make eye contact with people in the audience and see their reaction to my routine. I know I have had a good routine if I have gotten through to the crowd."



Berube, along with Valene Zieming and Lydia Beece, have proved themselves to be the best rhythmic gymnasts in this country and thus is one of the contenders for the Olympic Games. My goal is to do the best of the United States. If I can finish ahead of Agnes Weber of West Germany then I feel I will have accomplished something. She's known throughout the world for her name plus she has a very distinct style."

With the realization of making the Olympic team and to represent the United States in the Games, Berube feels she could get better but doesn't know if she will have the time to devote to reaching her full potential. "I've hit a peak and feel I could go further. It is a big question with me to leave while I'm on top and move on to new things or to continue for another four years. I want to stay around gymnastics, but at the same time I am looking around for opportunities."

Now that the pressure of making the team is over, Berube can relax and sit back and think about what she's done. "When we were on the podium after the Trials all the reactions and illustrations came pouring through and we knew we were on the team. I'm very happy I'm going to the Olympics. It is a great honor making the Olympic team."

Olympics Realization Of Dream

By Mike Bottkin
USA Gymnastics Editor

Rhythmic gymnast Lydia Beece is on the hot seat. Although she is a member of the 1984 Rhythmic Gymnastics Olympic delegation, she placed third at the Olympic Trials and thus must play the part of alternate. But even this has not diminished her ardor for the sport in which she has spent the majority of her life.

"This is (making the Olympic team) such a realization of a dream. It's such a goal that you set for yourself that to realize it is such a rush of warmth." Nothing is ever definite until it is over.

Beece is the oldest member of the 1984 squad and thus carries with her the most experience. "The first time I ever saw rhythmic gymnastics was after the 1972 Olympics and the Russians were giving a group routine exhibition. I just thought they were a bunch of clever Russians who made up these routines in their back yard. I had no idea it was a sport."

But when she was a sophomore in high school this sport became as real as life to the California native. "I started taking artistic gymnastics classes and at one of them I saw Alia Selsky working with some girls. When she moved her arms closer to me I started taking classes. I never imagined I would get into this."

After one year in rhythmic, gymnastics Beece made the World Championship team and traveled to Switzerland. It was here she got her first education on the sport. "I was amazed at the level of competition. I was just



working at the barre, sometimes a week for three hours. I thought I would go to the World Championships and then go home and go to school. But it's really cold out there more than fun and games. It was hard work, so I came home and started working 16 days a week for six hours a day."

As has fellow Olympian, Valene Zieming, Beece has been instructed by 1984 Rhythmic Gymnastics Olympic Coach Alia Selsky. According to Beece, she has kept the guiding light behind her. "I think Alia is one of the finest coaches in the world. She has made me what I am today. She can take a person and realize their potential, the mark of a truly great coach. She can take that talent and bring out the good positive qualities."

Because of her longevity in rhythmic gymnastics, Beece has been around long enough to see many changes come about in the sport. "Young girls now, their basic elements were my superior elements when I started. One of the biggest advantages I can see now for the girls coming up after me is they have older girls to look up to. This is something I didn't have. There is a good system where they can come up through the ranks. When I started, I had no idea of what the sport was all about, but look at me now."

Every August, in the chapter four post office unit for sports news in the Post's USA Today (1500) plus 1500 free).

Svirsky's Expertise Improving Sport

By Mike Bodkin
USA Gymnastics Editor

Formed on the mind of 1984 Rhythmic Olympian Coach Alla Svirsky is the advancement of the sport she has come to call her own. When she first arrived in the United States from her native country of the Soviet Union, Svirsky was known throughout the gymnastics world as a great choreographer for both artistic and rhythmic gymnasts.

Sitting in her office at her own club the Los Angeles School of Gymnastics, Svirsky is quite pleased with the advancements her sport has made throughout the years. "The development of the sport has come so far. It is nice to see there are big companies out there who are willing to give their support. They are starting to recognize the beauty and potential of the sport."

Getting to the grassroots of the program, Svirsky feels the Americans have a distinct advantage in rhythmic gymnastics over the Europeans. "In this country the athletes have so much to become a rhythmic gymnas. There are so many other options open to them that this creates very positive desire within them. It is something that cannot be taught. You have to want to perform. We have a natural selection of our gymnasts because they are free to do what they please. In other countries, they cannot do this; it is very structured."

When talking to the rhythmic gymnasts themselves, they respect the work that Svirsky has done. But one of the major drawbacks to the American system is the lack of competitions they are able to attend. In Europe rhythmic gymnasts have the opportunity to compete against other countries because of the close locale. It takes an incredible amount of money to either send or stage an international competition because of the distance involved. But according to the Olympic coach the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. "In this country we have an advantage because of the amount of students available for us to train. We can use this in our routines. Everybody copies us. Right now, the Bulgarians (who will not be competing in the 1984 Games due to the boycott) are using our music in their routines."

But with the advancement of any sport comes the pains of growth. More advanced facilities are needed by the



rhythmic gymnasts in order to keep up and surpass the world's best. "We are still behind in the conditioning of athletes and we are outgrowing our facilities. We will have an excellent training facility (for the Olympics) due to the great support we are getting from the United States Gymnastics Federation and the United States Olympic Committee."

A coaches' work is never done and Svirsky is a living testimony to this well proven adage. "You cannot be one second behind or you will blow it," she said. "We have to be very strong in technique and details both technical and mechanical. I have to study every minute. This is the only way to advance."

Far more important than the aerial routines, the rhythmic gymnasts perform, Svirsky feels the preparation of the routines fine. After all, if they cannot handle the pressure then even the greatest routine in the world won't help. "It takes a lot of dedication to perform the kinds of the young gymnasts, it's all blind and seat. I feel the gymnast should be taught by their coaches and not by themselves. They may be strong individuals, but they cannot be counted on to teach themselves how to react under pressure. They have to work with the coaches. You have to show to yourself that you are very confident."

Looking towards the Olympic competition itself, Svirsky has very definite ideas on what it is going to take to bring home a medal. "I feel there will be six countries competing for a medal (see sidebar, page 90).

(Inset photo above and left, left photo above right) Alla Svirsky, coach of the Los Angeles School of Gymnastics, performs a rhythmic gymnastics routine. (COURTESY PHOTO © 1984 ALLEN BODKIN)

seized the opportunity to claim the top spot.

"I had a lot of time between my hoop and ball routines," said Berube. "Before I went on for my clubs routine, I felt confident and aware and very relaxed." But her relaxed countenance wasn't afforded for very long because she dropped a club very early in the routine. Then came another drop and Berube's usual smiling face became as sober as a judge's. "When the first drop came I felt nervous. Then it was painful after the second. After it was all over, I was really depressed and I had to do another routine to go."

For her routine the Detroit Metro's star received a gift score of 9.05 which dropped her into second for the remainder of the competition.

Saturday's second day of competition was just the opposite. "The first day I was very nervous and I guess I let the pressure get to me too much. I knew I had to do well and was pushing myself pretty hard. I didn't do a bad job but I just didn't have the right attitude." So later that night came the moment of truth and after a brief self-concert she came out the second day a new gemstone. "I just knew the second day was going to be harder and that I couldn't let the pressure get to me. I had a great day and felt I did well in all four events."

Wendy Hilliard was another gymnast who turned in a very consistent performance. She had one slight bobble at the end of her ball routine the second day which seemed can to be her only mistake in all eight routines. "I am very proud I got the chance to compete in this national event," said Hilliard. "I feel very good about my performance." For the Detroit gemstone it is on to bigger and better things but with a promise to "stick around for awhile longer in the sport."

Saturday's Competition

The field was narrowed to the top four competitors by the time this day was over. Kusnysk started the competition off with a bang as she turned in a good strong hoop routine which included a move called the Shaggyman element which is where she loops the hoop with the cuff of her leg, then catches it. She had the misfortune of being the first competitor of the meet and scored a 9.00 for her routine.

Zemany came right out and nervousness or not set the standards for the rest to watch as she turned in a very expressive hoop routine good for a 9.4. Teresa Bracco showed some flexibility that was not evident in



Alison Aronson places fourth during the rhythmic Olympic trials in Atlanta City. Her score was beaten by Berube. At those same meetings in conjunction with the national grand opening, 1000 players & 10000 fans.

bullet background) in a better way. Although she still congraphed floor exercise routines for artistic gymnasts, Sandy likes to do routines for her rhythmic girls. "It is such a beautiful sport. The body proportion is much like that in ballet. It is an easy sport for young people to get involved in. In grade school you can give 100 kids a ribbon and you have the makings of a very beautiful group routine."

To come to this country and have her work rewarded by being named as the Olympic coach, the first ever in the history of

Oangsburg, S.C. and improved her standing with a 9.3.

The highest marks of the day were taken by Berube who made up the ground lost from the Championships by garnering two 9.05s. The first came in her ball routine and the second in her ribbon routine. "It is a new ribbon routine and I like it very much. I am happy to be on the floor with it," she said.

There was just .005 separating Zemany and Berube. Zemany had an equally good day scoring two 9.6s to keep pace. The first came for her clubs routine and the second during her dynamic ribbon routine. After the first day, the scoreboard read: Berube (26.440), Zemany (26.035), Kusnysk (26.020), Brez (25.980), Lisa Aronson (25.935), Stacy Chavers (25.900), Hilliard (24.995), Elizabeth Cull (24.860), and Bruce (24.765).

Sunday's Competition

In addition to it being the finals of the Rhythmic Olympic Trials it was also a birthday celebration for Aronson who just happened to lead off the day's festivities. She began well, but had the hoop tick a couple of times and was rewarded with a 9.35.

The story of the cool day was that of Berube. She picked right up where she left off from the day before and began with a 9.55 for her hoop routine. Following her was Berube who nailed her routine and scored a 9.75, the highest score so far in the competition. But not long after her came another stunning routine, this time performed by Zemany who also scored a 9.75.

During the final competition it was again Zemany and Berube who took top honors, each scoring a 9.75. Miss Flexibility, Chavers, improved her standing with a beautiful routine for which she received a 9.4 score.

Zemany used the overall low scores of the clubs portion of the meet to take solid command. After witnessing Berube's 9.05 routine, Zemany, with all the style and poise of a true champion, came through with a breathtaking routine, a 9.75 score and the lead for good. A drop near the end of her routine spoiled an otherwise very solid routine for Aronson as she scored a 9.25.

Then came the fatal ribbon routine. For Kusnysk it was a disaster, for Berube, an answer to last year's, for Berube, a time to get her act together and for Zemany one last routine before victory.

(ALLS, from page 20)

(Romania, West Germany, Spain, Canada, Japan, Italy and China could bring competitors) along with the United States. If the Bulgarians were in the Olympics, we might see some perfect 10.00s but I feel a 9.7 or 9.8 will be the champion. If we can get a 9.6, we may get a medal."

Sandy switched from the ranks of the artistic gymnast to that of a rhythmic gymnast because she felt she could use her

talent (background) in a better way. Although she still congraphed floor exercise routines for artistic gymnasts, Sandy likes to do routines for her rhythmic girls. "It is such a beautiful sport. The body proportion is much like that in ballet. It is an easy sport for young people to get involved in. In grade school you can give 100 kids a ribbon and you have the makings of a very beautiful group routine."

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RSG Boom Finds Vogelaar In Middle

By MIKE BOEKER
USA Gymnastics Editor

With the popularity of rhythmic gymnastics growing by leaps and bounds every day, the United States Gymnastics Federation has gotten into the music business and pianist Jacques Vogelaar is the person this interest is centered around.

Going by the nickname Jocko, the European born pianist has been on the payroll of Olympic Coach Alla Strykly at her school, the Los Angeles School of Gymnastics, playing music and arranging songs to the routines of its members for nearly now. But it wasn't until just recently that he received the tag of official rhythmic gymnastics pianist for the United States in the 1984 Olympics.

Vogelaar's involvement stretches back to his days in Holland where he began his musical career by studying at the Riaque "I was 16 years old when I was asked to play for a rhythmic gymnastics club. Then about 13 years ago, in the early 1970s, I was asked to

play for the Holland national rhythmic team. I didn't like the sport that well at first, but after then it has become a part of my life."

Upon his arrival in the United States, Vogelaar hooked up with an old acquaintance, Alla Strykly, and she directed

him to the key people in rhythmic gymnastics. "I knew Alla already from international meets I had played at. I was very happy to play for her because I feel she is the top coach in the country."

In Europe it is almost standard procedure for the gymnasts to work with a live piano rather than taped music. Strykly saw the need for this in the U.S. and so used the services of Vogelaar. "She thought it would be more professional to practice with a live piano player."

Since his birth into the sport of rhythmic gymnastics in Europe, Vogelaar has seen many changes come about very quickly. "The level of competition has changed so much. A girl that finished 16th in junior competition now could have been a world champion 13 or 14 years ago."

Vogelaar arms himself as "invaluable support" for the athletes he plays for. "I am someone who is in the background helping. I am an essential part of the gymnast. If one cost them points or I can gain them points, I am all the time working with them."

But for the piano, gymnast and coach to all work together and understand each other takes a while, according to Vogelaar. The main feeling between the pianist and gymnast must be trust. "It is a triangle. I must get to know the gymnast and her routine and she must get to know me and that takes a couple of months. Every girl has different things she will do. I have to watch that and work it out because that is when I succeed. I have to know the routines inside and out and be able to keep up with all the changes."

Once that trust is established and the gymnast knows Vogelaar will be there to either cover up a mistake or help speed a routine up, then they will be able to fully concentrate on their routines. "I concentrate more on them than they do on me. They have problems enough with their equipment and have to concentrate on that all the time they are on the floor."

But at the same time, the piano player makes some of the routine fun, just as he has to watch what he is doing. "They point it when I sit on the right keys," laughs Vogelaar. "If I play 10,000 wrong notes the gymnast will get confused and it will upset her routine. It is always a surprise for me to see the confusion take place because they thing that I have missed. When you have to check two things, you miss something."

As it will be on the Olympics for Vogelaar and the rhythmic gymnast and the pianist is very excited about his involvement in the large international event. "I am very happy they have a place for a piano player. I feel this will be very good for the girls. They will get to show their routines 100 percent perfect."

Vogelaar has played for each girl on the Olympic squad before and feels it is very important that he accompanies them on international trips, as well. "It is very important for me to know exactly what they are doing and are going to do. In the case of international meets where there is great pressure, I like to know how they are going to react."

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Since rhythmic gymnastics has become such an important part of his life, Vogelbar feels it will be very hard to get out of the sport. But there is always the threat of rhythmicorchestrating, an illness or the concern of returning to music on to something else. "I am so much into the sport that it will be very hard for me to get out of it. You see how hard it is for the athletes and it will be the same for me."

Joseph Vogelbar (left) plays a Kawai grand piano with rhythmic gymnast Cindy Miller looking on. Above: piano player at a competition during the Atlanta Olympics. Photo by Andrew Gao, AP.



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CALENDAR

UNITED STATES GYMNASTICS FEDERATION

Schedule of Events

(Dates & Events subject to change or cancellation)

AUGUST 1984

9-11

- Olympic Gymnastics Competition
- Academic Gymnastics
- Faculty Problem
- U.S.A. Campus

19-20

- BIG Continental Judge Course Colorado Springs
- BIG National Coaches Course
- Colorado Springs, CO

18-19

- Junior Men's Development Camp
- Colorado Springs, CO

SEPTEMBER 1984

20-21

- USGF Business Seminar
- Indianapolis, IN

20-21

- USGF Congress
- Indianapolis, IN

17-21

- Olympia Modeler Tour

OCTOBER 1984

1-2

- BIG Training Camp
- Colorado Springs, CO

15-16

- Four Conference Championships in
- Martial, Gymnastics
- Indoor/Outdoor

26-28

- National Coaches Workshop CM 1
- Colorado Springs, CO

NOVEMBER 1984

1-2

- 1984 Ontario Cup (M/F)
- Waterloo, Canada

17-18

- Pacific Alliance
- San Jose, CA

17

- Ms. Invitational Cup
- (Junior Boys & Girls)
- Rapid City, SD

17-21

- 1st Junior Men's Dev. Camp
- Colorado Springs, CO

24-30

- 2nd Junior Men's Dev. Camp
- Colorado Springs, CO

DECEMBER 1984

1-2

- 3rd Junior Men's Dev. Camp
- Colorado Springs, CO

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Resumes of US Gymnasts for the 1984 Summer Living the Phoenix, Phoenix, Arizona are being accepted at the Camp as advertised located in social conditions in the city. We close August 11 through August 25. The Camp is for preteens, teenagers and intermediate ages interested in rhythmic gymnastics. For information call or write:

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Tentative Schedule—including Special Seminars prior to Congress

September 18, 1984

Business Management and Opportunity Seminar (BMOS)	8:00 am	at Market Square Arena
Registration	8:00 am	September 22, 1984
Seminar	8:30 am-6:00 pm	Congress Meeting & Registration Reception

September 19, 1984

BMOS	8:45 am-6:00 pm	Hoosier—Convention Center
United States Gymnastics Federation (USGF)—American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) Sports Medicine in Gymnastics		USGF Amateur Talent Contest
Registration	8:30 am	10:00 pm-11:00 pm

September 20, 1984

ACCP Seminar	9:00 am-5:00 pm	Market Square Arena
Congress		1. Indianapolis Hilton 100 South Meridian Indianapolis, IN 46204 (317) 262-9200 8:00 am-6:00 pm
Registration	1:00 pm-6:00 pm	2. Howard Johnson— Westgate, 101 W. Washington Boulevard, 46204 (317) 262-1244 8:00 am-6:00 pm

September 21, 1984

Congress Meetings	9:00 am-5:30 pm	For Air Travel Arrangements Call USGF Travel Service 1-800-243-3188
Tour of Champions	7:30 pm	

In addition, on Friday evening, September 21, 1984, 7:30 p.m., at Market Square Arena, the USGF will host the McDonald's Tour of Champions, an international exhibition of the '84 Gymnastics Olympians and medal winners. The athletes will perform two routines, one being the apparatus and routine that they won a medal for. It will be an exciting opportunity for all to learn from the best.

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